

Mincha Yom Kippur Kavanot
Rachel Orzoff

When the world is at its darkest, we can certainly close our eyes. Strange as it seems on the surface, closing our eyes lets us each reach into our own memories. As we live live each day, we must remember that light.

Additionally, we can reach out to others to find light. Gardeners, needleworkers, and photographers are extraordinary light finders.

Author Ruth Renkel wisely teaches, "Never fear shadows. They simply mean there's a light shining somewhere nearby."

For no matter how dark it may seem, up above there are stars.

Now its time to move forward. There've been 10 days of repentance. There's been more than a year of struggle. So how do we move forward?

We take a deep breath.

We look at the semblance around us.

And we recognize that as challenging as its been, we move foward in a world that is changing.

We can and are moving forward.

Some of you started a new job. Some of you gained acceptance for your identity. Some of you found your home in this congregation.

The air is sweet and spicy. Breathe in and make room for new possibilities.

The world is changing. Some of it is just going on, outside of us, far from us, beyond our control. Its happening for all of us, this change. And it's heavy.

We have shared in the pains of human massacre. Weathered the storms of natural disasters. Buried loved ones. We have lost jobs. Ended relationships. Spent too much time in medical offices.

And we are here. In this holy space, with our blessed community, connected to God, and ready for new possibilities. Together, we can be the light we need to move forward.

The Great American Writer, Edith Wharton, wrote, "There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." We see your light. Let us reflect it for one another.